



Update - EPA Tribal Consultation and Coordination - Upcoming EPA Action on Idaho Human Health Criteria

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Dear Tribal Colleagues:

We at EPA wanted to provide you an update on our EPA Tribal Consultation and Coordination work on our upcoming action on Idaho Human Health Criteria. Since late 2011, EPA has held a number of information and coordination meetings with Tribes regarding its upcoming action on the human health toxics criteria. Our goal has been to coordinate and consult, when requested, with Tribal Governments so that EPA can take our required Clean Water Act action by March 2nd, a date dictated by litigation concerns. We have heard concern from Tribes about the compressed time frame that EPA established for Tribal Consultation on this decision. We have also heard some Tribes say that they have information about subsistence uses but that the compressed time frame does not give them enough time to provide this information to EPA.

After hearing these concerns, **EPA has decided to take more time to finish consultation and coordination with Tribes regarding its action on the human health toxics criteria in Idaho.** Additional time will give EPA the ability to have more time to complete consultations with Tribes; enable the Tribes to provide us any information they have regarding fish consumption and subsistence uses of the fishery; and engage in any needed discussions between our respective staffs to share perspectives and concerns. In addition we would like Tribes to provide us with any additional information you may have by March 30th.

In the meantime, **EPA has been made aware of the existence of additional fish consumption information potentially relevant to our action in to the northern portion of Idaho.** Last week we became aware of a 1989 study that included an evaluation of fish consumed from Lake Coeur d'Alene and tributaries by both tribal members and licensed non-Indian fishers. Although this information was utilized in developing the human health risk assessment for the Coeur d'Alene Superfund site, until recently our office was not aware of it as a potential source of interest for ongoing discussions regarding fish consumption rates and water quality standards. At the same time we were also made aware of additional information in NE WA and are also sharing that with you (attached below). We are interested in hearing any thoughts you may have on these studies and/or how your tribe believes they should be considered in EPA's upcoming decision.

I also want to provide you an update on our consultation and coordination meetings. As some of you are aware, January's weather caused us to cancel the January 19th meetings scheduled in Spokane, WA. Dennis McLerran, EPA Region 10 Regional Administrator, was able to meet with tribal staff from the Kootenai and Shoshone Bannock Tribes on January 20th in Boise, ID. On February 16th, Dennis McLerran will be meeting with tribal officials from the Couer d'Alene Tribe, Umatilla Tribe, Nez Perce Tribe and Yakama Nation at the ATNI meeting in Shelton, WA. On February 16th, Christine Psyk, Associate Director, EPA Region 10 Office of Water, Jannine Jennings, EPA Region 10 Water Quality Program Manager, and myself, will be meeting with staff from the Kalispel Tribe and Colville Tribe in Spokane, WA. We are still able to schedule some additional meetings with tribal staff on February 16th if interested. Please contact me this week if you would like to meet with us at that time.

Given the schedule changes and the new information, we want to offer to hold another informational conference call to share information on this work effort. **I am proposing to hold the conference call on February 22, 2pm Pacific Time, Conference # 866-299-3188, code 503-326-5873.** Please let me know if you are interested in this call. I will also send a notice about the call to all tribal contacts receiving this email.

Thanks for your graciousness and helpfulness as we continue to work together on this extraordinarily important work.

Mary Lou Soscia

Attached Documents:

THE RELATIONSHIP OF HUMAN LEVELS OF LEAD AND CADMIUM TO THE CONSUMPTION OF FISH CAUGHT IN AND AROUND LAKE COEUR D'ALENE, IDAHO, September 1989



1989 ATSDR.pdf

Final Human Health Risk Assessment for the Couer d'Alene Basin Extending from Harrison to Mullan on the Couer d'Alene River and Tributaries. Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study, June 2001.
http://www.epa.gov/region10/pdf/sites/bunker_hill/cda_basin/hhra_080101.pdf (it's 20MB so give it time to load)

From this page: <http://yosemite.epa.gov/r10/cleanup.nsf/basin/human+health+risk+assessment>

The other information from Northeast WA:



SpokaneRiverEvaluationHC82807.pdfSpokane Fish Consumption Survey 1998 Report.docx



Lake Roosevelt Anglers Survey.pdf

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